Shortage of coal at Badarpur Power Plant

*394. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: SHRI O.P. KOHLI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Badarpur Power Plant of National Thermal Power Corporation is facing acute shortage of coal and as a result thereof a 100 megawatt unit had to be shut down and a unit of the same capacity is closed for maintenance work;

(b) whether power supply to Delhi was cut down due to this;

(c) the quantity of coal needed daily to run it to its capacity;

(d) the supply of coal made to the plant during July, 1996, on daily basis; and

(e) the steps taken to supply coal in sufficient quantity to this plant in future to ensure its normal functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALCHARI): (a) The stock of coal at Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS) has sometimes in recent weeks remained inadequate causing one or more units to be shut down for short periods.

(b) Since the entire power supply from BTPS is ear-marked for supply to the National Capital Territory of Delhi, lower generation in the Station does affect the power supply to Delhi.

(c) and (d) Approximately 10,000 metric tonnes of coal per day is required for generating the targetted quantum of electricity at B.T.P.S. As against this, the average supply during July, 19% was about 8500 MT.

(e) Minisrtries of Coal and Railways are making all out efforts to supply adequate quantities of coal to this power station. However, to ensure a steady supply of coal, it is necessary that DESU pays fully for the purchase of power from BTPS, to whom DESU owes huge amounts on this account.

Uniform price for natural gas

*395. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have a uniform price for natural gas in all parts of the country;

(b) if not, whether Government will agree to examine a proposal for telescoping the price of natural gas so that remote areas can also benefit from its utilisation; and

(c) whether to facilitate the supply of natural gas to all parts of the country, a national pipeline for supply of natural gas, including grids for the different zones is being considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SH. T.R. BAALU): (a) The price of natural gas is uniform over the country except for the North-East where the price is concessional. The price does not include taxes and transportation charges.

(b) and (c) The gas projected to be available is fully allocated. The proposal for a national gas grid and telescopic transportation charges may be examined as and when availability of gas improves sufficiently.

SC/ST families above poverty line

*396. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes families in the country, State-wise, including Punjab;

(b) the number of families out of them brought above the poverty line during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) what target has been fixed for the year 1996-97 to assist SCs/STs families and generate adequate income to these people?